

Dockets



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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

OCT 24 1995

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OCT 25 1995

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Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 1995, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. David Caulkins, regarding Apple Computer, Inc.'s ("Apple") petition for rulemaking which requests an allocation of spectrum to provide unlicensed communications services. Mr. Caulkins expresses support for Apple's proposal. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a status report on this proposal and a related rulemaking.

On May 15, 1995, the Wireless Information Networks Forum ("WINForum") filed a Petition for Rulemaking (RM-8648) requesting that 250 megahertz of spectrum at 5.1 - 5.35 GHz be allocated for a new high-speed, high-bandwidth, unlicensed radio service, or Shared Unlicensed PErsonal Radio Network ("SUPERNet"). According to WINForum, SUPERNet is designed to allow wireless access to the full range of data communications capabilities now being deployed in landline networks to support multimedia and other resource-intensive applications.

On May 24, 1995, Apple filed a Petition for Rulemaking (RM-8653) requesting that 300 megahertz of spectrum at 5.15 - 5.30 GHz and 5.725 - 5.875 GHz be allocated for a new high-speed, high-bandwidth, unlicensed radio service. Apple contends that this allocation ("the NII Band") would promote full development of a National Information Infrastructure by making possible high-bandwidth access and interaction throughout a limited geographic area, where mobility is key, and by providing as well for a wireless element of "community networks" serving a larger area.

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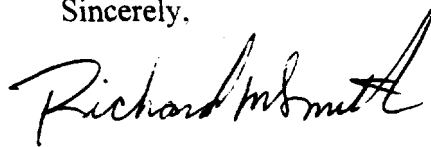
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Honorable Dianne Feinstein

2.

Please note that we have placed your correspondence in the docket for the Apple and WINForum petitions (RM-8653 and RM-8648) and assure you that your constituent's letter will be considered before the Commission makes a determination in this proceeding. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" at the end.

Richard M. Smith

Chief

Office of Engineering and Technology

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

*PRB
Kulinski
4/5/97*

October 6, 1995

Lauren J. Belzin
Acting Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Belzin:

INQUIRY FROM: David Caulkins (Reference #: seg-35531)

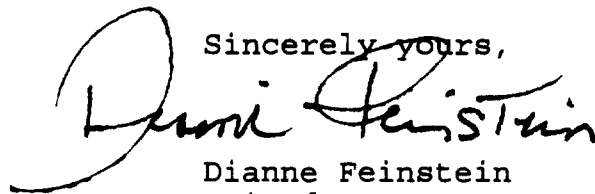
RE: FCC action towards RM-8653

I am forwarding the attached constituent inquiry for your review and consideration. I believe that my constituent would benefit from your direct response to the specific issues raised in the enclosed letter.

I would appreciate it if you would return your response, in duplicate, as quickly as possible so that I can share the information with my constituent.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:seg

RECEIVED
OCT 10 1995
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OLA

From: Dave Caulkins (dcaulkins@igc.apc.org)

Subject: FCC spectrum allocation

81110

July 9, 1995

Dear Senator Feinstein:

A spectrum allocation matter is now before the Federal Communications Commission; its number is RM-8653. I've been in the computer network business for longer than I care to remember, and I think RM-8653 is a very good idea.

The proposed non-licensed, medium-range (15-30 miles or more) public use via type-licensed transceivers and with broadcast etiquette will assure equitable sharing and efficient use of this public networking area. This proposal will allow a fluid mix of local and wide area networking. This bandwidth would be made available free to all comers, subject only to interference-reducing technical standards. No auctions, no license fees, no regulations on what it's used for, and no airtime charges.

I believe this kind of free and efficient metropolitan-area point-to-point and point-to-community wireless communication would be very beneficial to important sectors of our economy - schools, libraries, civic nets, community groups, local government, small business, and citizens.

RM-8653 proposes spectrum sharing by fixed and mobile users on a completely ad-hoc basis, and assigns 300 megahertz of bandwidth at 5 gigahertz to high density 24-megabit-per-second connections. The use of "spectrum etiquette" for spectrum sharing is a good blend of science and free market ingenuity. Spectrum etiquette imposes no centralized control and assumes no traffic prioritization.

I am opposed to the competing WINForum proposal for this same spectrum allocation. This approach is centered on circuit-switched voice, necessitating a hierarchical and inflexible architecture with choke points and centralized control.

I urge you to do whatever you can to support the adoption of RM-8653 by the FCC.

Sincerely,

Dave Caulkins
Director, GlasNet

437 Mundel Way
Los Altos, CA 94022-1118
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FAX: 415-948-1474